



Joan Desmond
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West Oxfordshire District Council
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Witney
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By email only to: joan.desmond@westoxon.gov.uk

29 September 2022

Dear Joan,

APPLICATION NO: 22/02472/FUL

DESCRIPTION: Solar park and energy storage facility together with associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure.

LOCATION: Land At Former Home Close Farm, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxfordshire

Thank you for consulting the Cotswolds Conservation Board ('the Board') on this proposed development, which would be located within the setting of the Cotswolds National Landscape.¹

In reaching its planning decision, the local planning authority (LPA) has a statutory duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape.² The Board recommends that, in fulfilling this 'duty of regard', the LPA should: (i) ensure that planning decisions are consistent with relevant national and local planning policy and guidance; and (ii) take into account the following Board publications:

- Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2018-2023 ([link](#));
- Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to Landscape Character Types (LCT) 16 (Broad Floodplain Valley), 9 (High Wold Dip Slope) and LCT 7 (High Wold), areas of which all lie within the Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility (Figure 3 of the LVIA) associated with the application site;
- Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to LCT 9 ([link](#)), and LCT7 ([link](#)) and LCT16 ([link](#));
- Cotswolds AONB Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change ([link](#));
- Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statements ([link](#)) particularly, in this instance, with regards to Renewable Energy ([link](#)).

The boundary of Cotswolds National Landscape lies c. .5km to the north of the site at its nearest point and is separated from the site by Whitehill Quarry and the A40. As indicated above, the Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility ('ZTV', Figure 3 of the applicant's LVIA, Pegasus Group August 2022) shows that land within the National Landscape lies within the ZTV associated with the site. However, any potential impact of the proposal upon views from within the National Landscape is not considered any further within the LVIA.

The areas within the National Landscape shown in within the ZTV that are closest to the site are a small area along the minor road between Swinbrook and Fulbrook and an area either side of the A424 to the north of Burford. I have visited both these locations and am satisfied that the site is either not

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The Cotswolds National Landscape is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), managed and looked after by the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Chairman:
Brendan McCarthy

Vice Chair:
Rebecca Charley

visible or is at such a distance that any adverse visual impacts of the proposal on the natural beauty of the National Landscape would be extremely negligible. Accordingly, the Board **does not wish to object** to this application.

If you have any queries regarding this response, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Joyce', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Joyce

Planning Officer

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NOTES:

- 1) Cotswolds National Landscape is the new name for the Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The new name takes forward one of the proposals of the Government-commissioned 'Landscapes Review' to rename AONBs as 'National Landscapes'. This change reflects the national importance of AONBs and the fact that they are safeguarded, in the national interest, for nature, people, business and culture.
- 2) Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85
- 3) The documents referred to in our response can be located on the Cotswolds National Landscape website under the following sections
 - a. Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2018-2023
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/management-plan
 - b. Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lca
 - c. Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy and Guidelines
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lsg
 - d. Cotswolds AONB Local Distinctiveness and Landscape Change
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ldlc
 - e. Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statements
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ps1
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/ps2